MARVEL

#5

RYAN CAMPBELL
RUGGIERO SALTARES

A CLONE CONSPIRACY TIE-IN

THE PROWLER

Hobie Brown was a brilliant inventor trapped in an unfulfilling job. Inspired to make something more of himself, he became...

THE PROWLER

RECENTLY, SPIDER-MAN ASKED HOBIE BROWN TO INVESTIGATE NEW U, A PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY THAT DELIVERS MEDICAL "MIRACLES"—WHICH SET OFF PETER'S SPIDER-SENSE! AS SOON AS HOBIE DISCOVERED THAT THE JACKAL WAS RUNNING NEW U AND BRINGING VILLAINS BACK TO LIFE USING CLONING TECHNOLOGY, HE WAS KILLED BY A NEW, FEMALE ELECTRO. FORTUNATELY, THE JACKAL CLONED HOBIE AND BROUGHT HIM BACK TO LIFE... BUT HIS RESURRECTION CAME AT A PRICE.

IN EXCHANGE FOR THE PILLS HE MUST NOW TAKE DAILY TO PREVENT HIS BODY FROM BREAKING DOWN, HOBIE REPORTS TO THE JACKAL. HOWEVER, HIS LOYALTY WAS FINALLY SWAYED WHEN THE JACKAL SET OFF A SIGNAL THAT DESTABILIZED THE CLONES' BODIES AND UNLEASHED THE LETHAL CARRION VIRUS.

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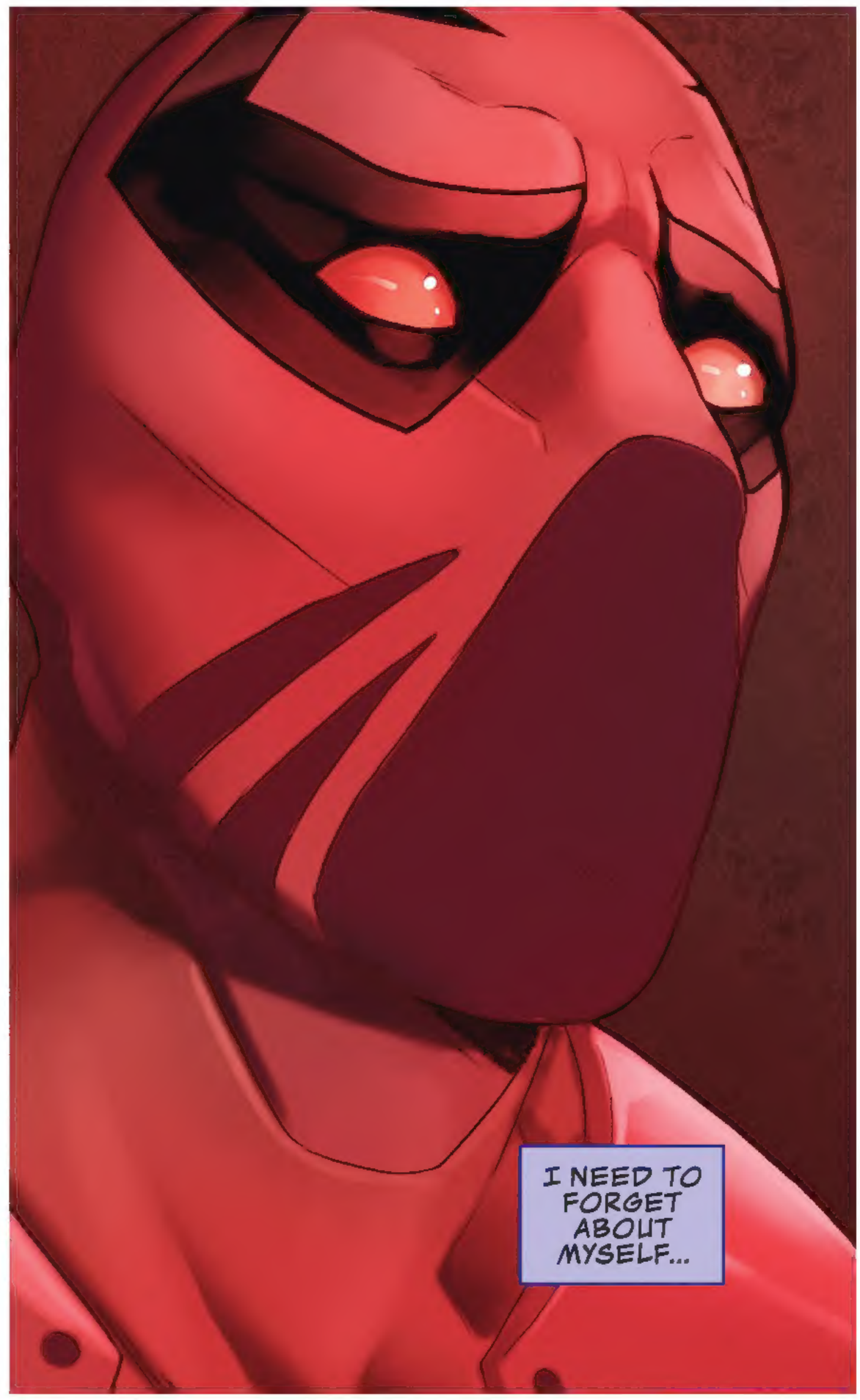
BETRAYED...
...BROKEN...
...BUT STILL STANDING.

I PUSH THROUGH MY PAIN.

I PUSH THROUGH MY ANGER AND CONFUSION.

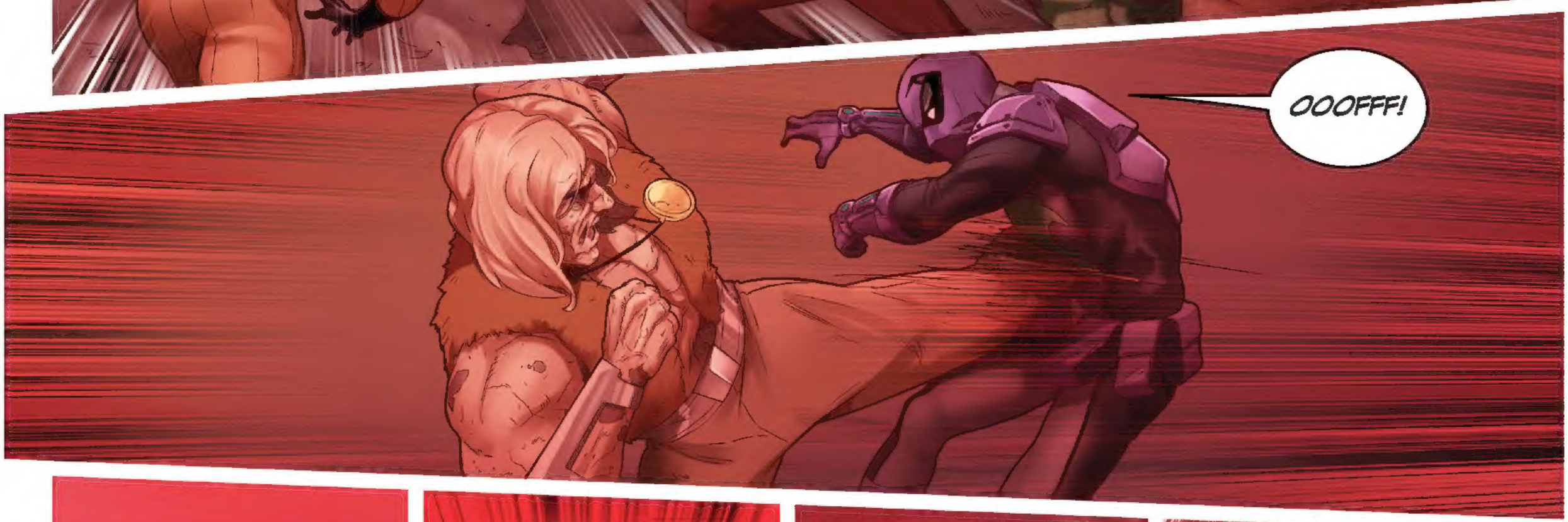
WHAT I FEEL DOESN'T MATTER.

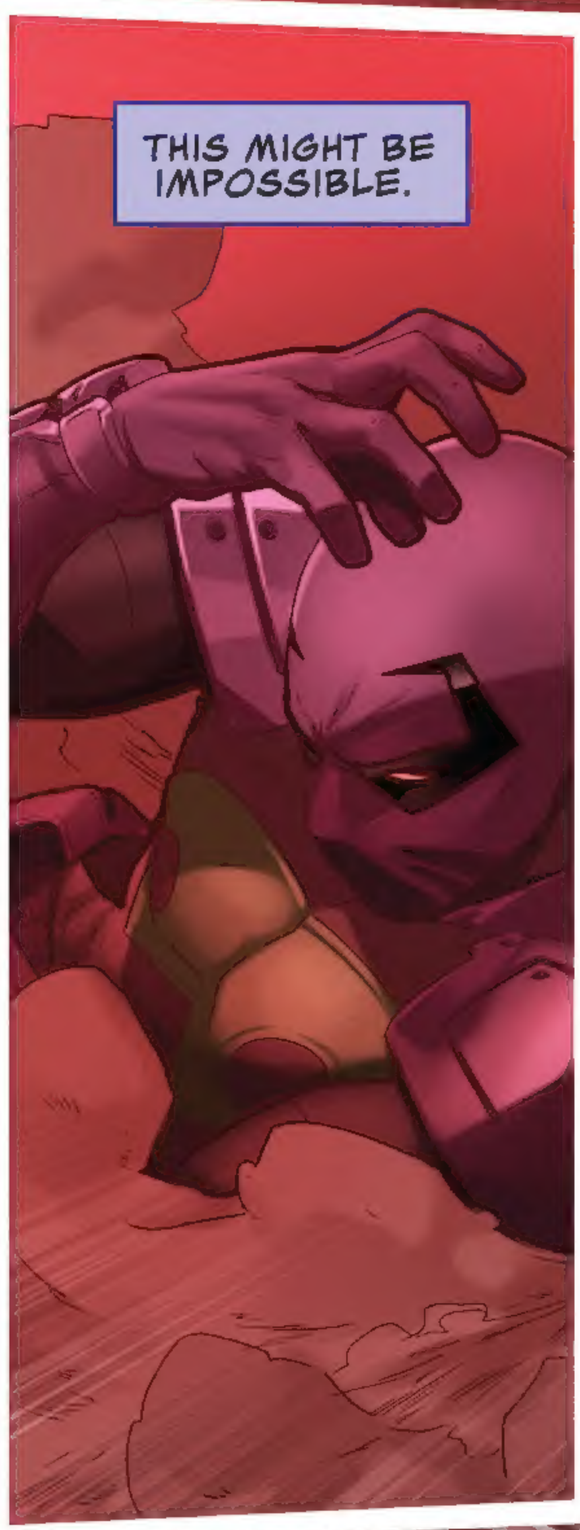

I NEED TO FORGET ABOUT MYSELF...

...AND REMEMBER WHAT MY JOB IS.

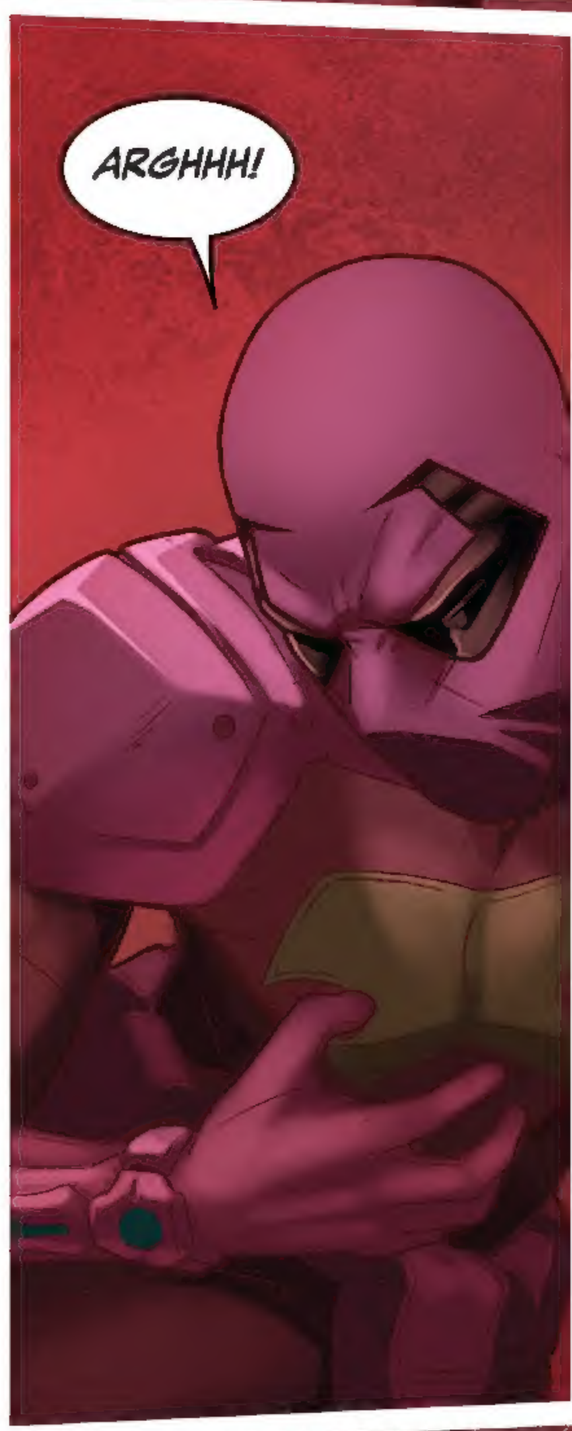
HEADS UP! WE GOT A STAMPEDE!
PROWLER! JEAN! WE HAVE TO CONTAIN THESE CLONES.
WE NEED TO KEEP THEM FROM INFECTING PEOPLE OUTSIDE IN THE CITY.
DON'T WORRY. I WAS ON CROWD CONTROL BEFORE YOU SPUN YOUR FIRST WEB.
WE'LL HOLD 'EM HERE! GET MOVING!
YEAH. IF ANYONE'S GOING TO SCIENCE A WAY OUT OF THIS, IT'S YOU.
THANKS! GOOD LUCK!
HURRY.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME I'VE GOT LEFT.
ALL I DO KNOW IS THAT THE JACKAL GAVE ME ONE JOB-- TO KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN LINE.
SO THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.

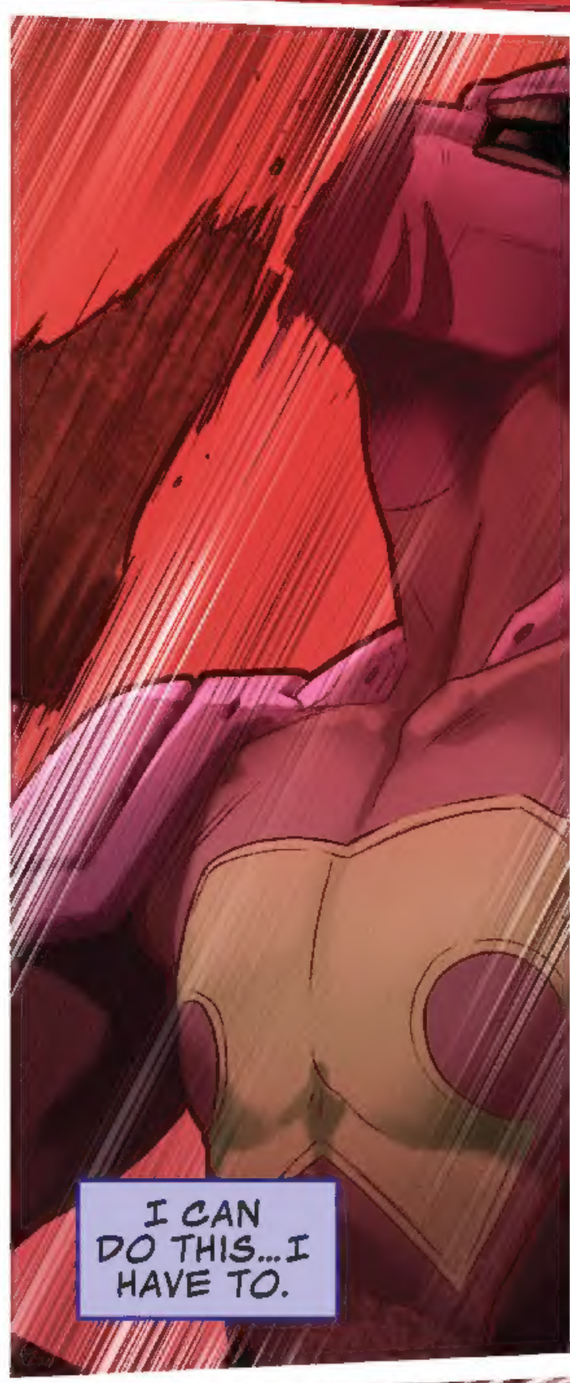
PROWLER! THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE LOADING DOCK. WE CAN'T LET THEM GET THROUGH! WE NEED TO SECURE THOSE DOORS!
I'M A LITTLE BUSY HERE...

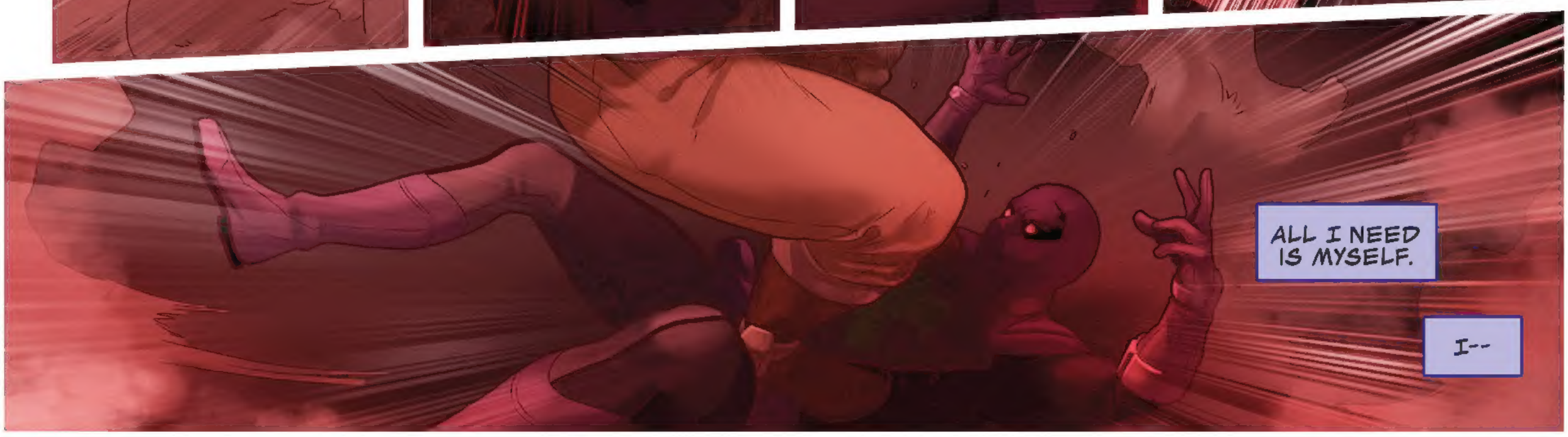

OOOFFF!


THIS MIGHT BE IMPOSSIBLE.

I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH...
AND I CAN'T EVEN FEEL MY--


ARGHHH!


I CAN DO THIS...I HAVE TO.


ALL I NEED IS MYSELF.
I--

BANG

COME ON, PROWLER. I GOT YOU.
WE'RE BETTER IF WE HANDLE THIS TOGETHER.

BOOMM
OH, NO...
THE LOADING BAY DOORS...

THIS JUST WENT FROM BAD TO ANARCHY.

PROWLER, COME ON, PICK UP THE PACE. I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP WITH THIS.
THIS IS HORRIBLE. THESE CLONES ARE BREAKING DOWN, THEY'RE NOT THINKING RIGHT, AND NOW THEY'RE LOOSE ON THE DAMNED STREET.
WE NEED TO DISTRACT THEM. KEEP THEM AWAY FROM CIVILIANS.
MAKE SOME NOISE! GET THEIR ATTENTION!
AND, WHEN YOU DO, TRY TO KEEP THEM CORNERED AS BEST AS YOU CAN.
SEEMS DECEPTIVELY SIMPLE.
BLAM
BLAM
IT WON'T BE. DON'T FORGET, THEY ALL WANT TO KILL YOU.
AND NOW THEY HAVE NO REASON NOT TO.

OH, NO YOU DON'T!
ARGGHH!!!
PROWLER! WHAT HAPPENED? EVERYTHING OKAY?!
NO.
THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM.
THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE.

THWIP
THWIP
HEY THERE, PAL...
...LOOKS LIKE YOU COULD USE SOME HELP.
I'VE GOTTEN THOSE CIVILIANS TO SAFETY. WHERE DO WE HEAD NEXT?
LET'S REGROUP WITH JEAN. SHE--
:COUGH COUGH:
SHE'LL KNOW--
:COUGH COUGH:
PROWLER, RIGHT? SPIDER-MAN'S TALKED ABOUT YOU. ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE.
YOU DON'T LOOK FINE.
WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

JEAN DEWOLFF! WE'RE HERE TO HELP.
THANK GOD. WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET, HERE. THIS IS UNRAVELING WAY TOO QUICKLY.

I'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE ON TOO MANY EARTHS TO COUNT. THIS COULD BE THE END OF THE WORLD.
WE NEED TO CONTAIN THESE PSYCHOS. NOW.

SPIDER-MAN IS FINDING A WAY TO REVERSE THE DECAY, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THAT WILL TAKE.
EVEN IF HE IS ABLE TO REVERSE IT, WE'LL STILL HAVE THE SITUATION DOWN HERE TO DEAL WITH...

...AND I DON'T KNOW THAT ALL OF US WILL BE UP TO THE TASK.

PROWLER!!!
OH GOD, HE'S BREAKING DOWN. GUESS HE COULD ONLY FIGHT IT FOR SO LONG.
TELL ME ABOUT IT. IT'S TAKING EVERYTHING I HAVE JUST TO STAY UPRIGHT.
WE NEED TO GET HIM SOMEWHERE SAFE AND OUT OF THE WAY.

I GOT HIM. YOU GUYS JUST KEEP THOSE THINGS OFF OF US WHILE I'M AT IT.
THEY'RE NOT THINGS-- NOT AS LONG AS WE CAN CURE THEM IN TIME. COME ON, JEAN.
RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

HERE YA GO, PROWLER. JUST STAY HIDDEN AS WELL AS YOU CAN BACK HERE.

WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO KEEP THE BAD GUYS AWAY FROM YOU.
NO...
I CAN HELP...

PROWLER, YOU JUST NEED TO RELAX AND REST.
DON'T WORRY. WE GOT THIS.

THEY'VE GOT THIS.
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I HEARD THAT BEFORE?
I PUT MY FAITH IN PEOPLE AND WHERE DOES IT GET ME?
HERE.
DYING IN AN ALLEY, USELESS TO EVERYBODY.
I CAN'T TRUST ANYONE.
HOBIE BROWN.
I KNEW I'D FIND YOU HERE...
...WITH THE REST OF THE GARBAGE.
I'M ALL ALONE.

OOOFF!!

JULIA?

HOBIE! THANK GOD I FOUND YOU!

SPIDER-MAN MUST HAVE FIGURED OUT HOW TO FIX ALL OF THIS. THE CLONES OUTSIDE HAVE BEEN CURED. THEY'RE DOWN AND OUT, BUT THEY'RE NOT CONTAGIOUS OR DISINTEGRATING ANYMORE.

IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THOSE WEBWEAR DEVICES PARKER INDUSTRIES SELLS.

YOU SHOULD BE OKAY, TOO YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT THROUGH THIS.

SHE SAVED MY LIFE...

AGAIN.

SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO. ESPECIALLY NOT AFTER WHAT I DID TO HER...

AND SPIDER-MAN DIDN'T LET US DOWN, EITHER.

OH, NO.

HA HA!

JULIA...

ARGGHH!!!

YOU CAME TO SAVE LITTLE HOBIE HERE, BUT NOW...

...WHO'S GOING TO SAVE YOU?

"IS IT REALLY YOU?"

PROWLER? HOBIE?

HEY, YEAH. IT'S ME. WHAT'S GOING ON? LAST I REMEMBER, I WAS IN SAN FRANCISCO AND--

NNG.

JULIA, RIGHT? JULIA CARPENTER?

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

I FEEL LIKE I'VE TAKEN A HUNDRED-YEAR NAP. BUT I'LL BE OKAY.

SPIDER-MAN BROUGHT ME UP TO SPEED ON JACKAL AND *NEW U.*

KRAK

NO ONE'S TOLD YOU ABOUT...THE OTHER YOU? JACKAL MADE A CLONE OF YOU.
YOU WERE... YOUR CLONE WAS WORKING FOR JACKAL.
WHAT?! THERE WAS ANOTHER ONE OF ME?
WHERE IS HE NOW?
...
I'M SORRY, HOBIE.

BETRAYED...

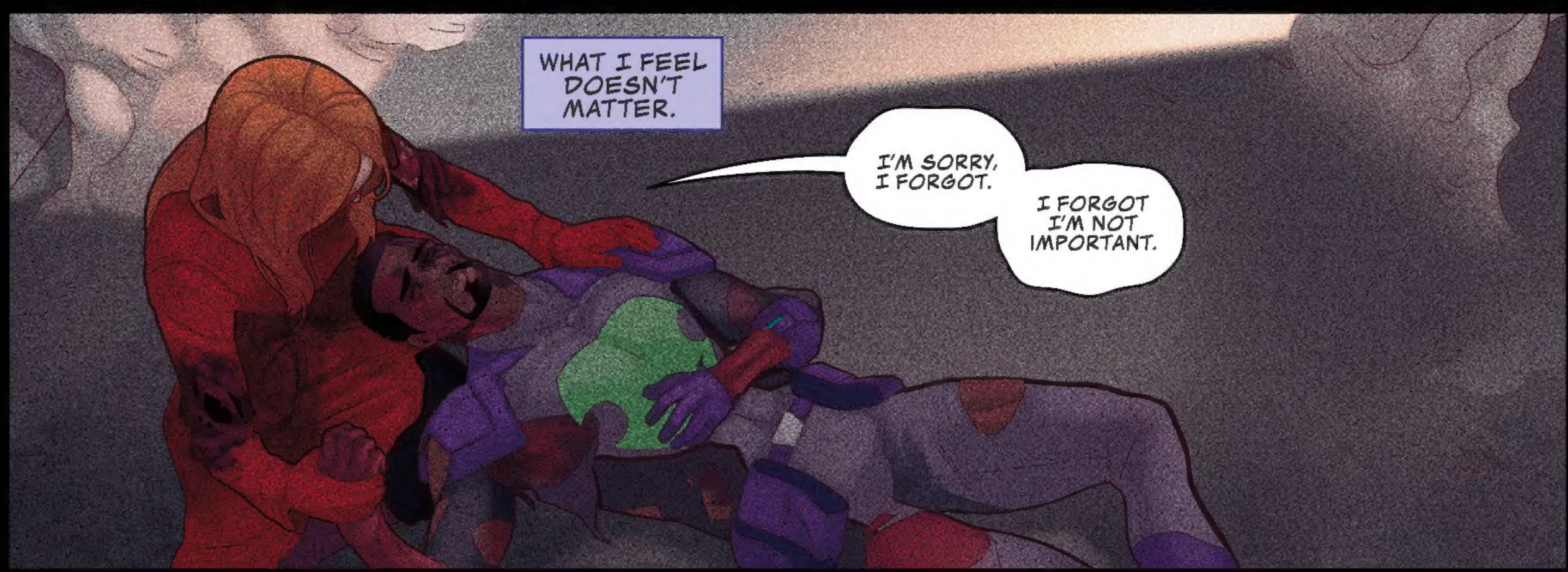
...BROKEN...

...BUT STILL STANDING.

HOBIE!

I PUSH THROUGH MY PAIN.
JULIA... I'M SORRY.
SORRY?! FOR WHAT?
YOU JUST SAVED MY LIFE.

I PUSH THROUGH MY ANGER AND CONFUSION.
I'M SO SORRY, I'M HAVING A TOUGH TIME WRAPPING MY HEAD AROUND THIS.
SO WHILE I WAS HERE, THERE WAS A CLONE OF ME, LIVING MY LIFE...
AND NOW HE'S DEAD?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START.


WHAT I FEEL DOESN'T MATTER.
I'M SORRY, I FORGOT.
I FORGOT I'M NOT IMPORTANT.

I NEED TO FORGET ABOUT MYSELF...
WHAT WAS HE LIKE?

HE WAS GOOD.
...AND REMEMBER WHAT MY JOB IS.
NNNG.

YOU WANT TO KNOW
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
DON'T MISS
THE PROWLER
#6

ZONE